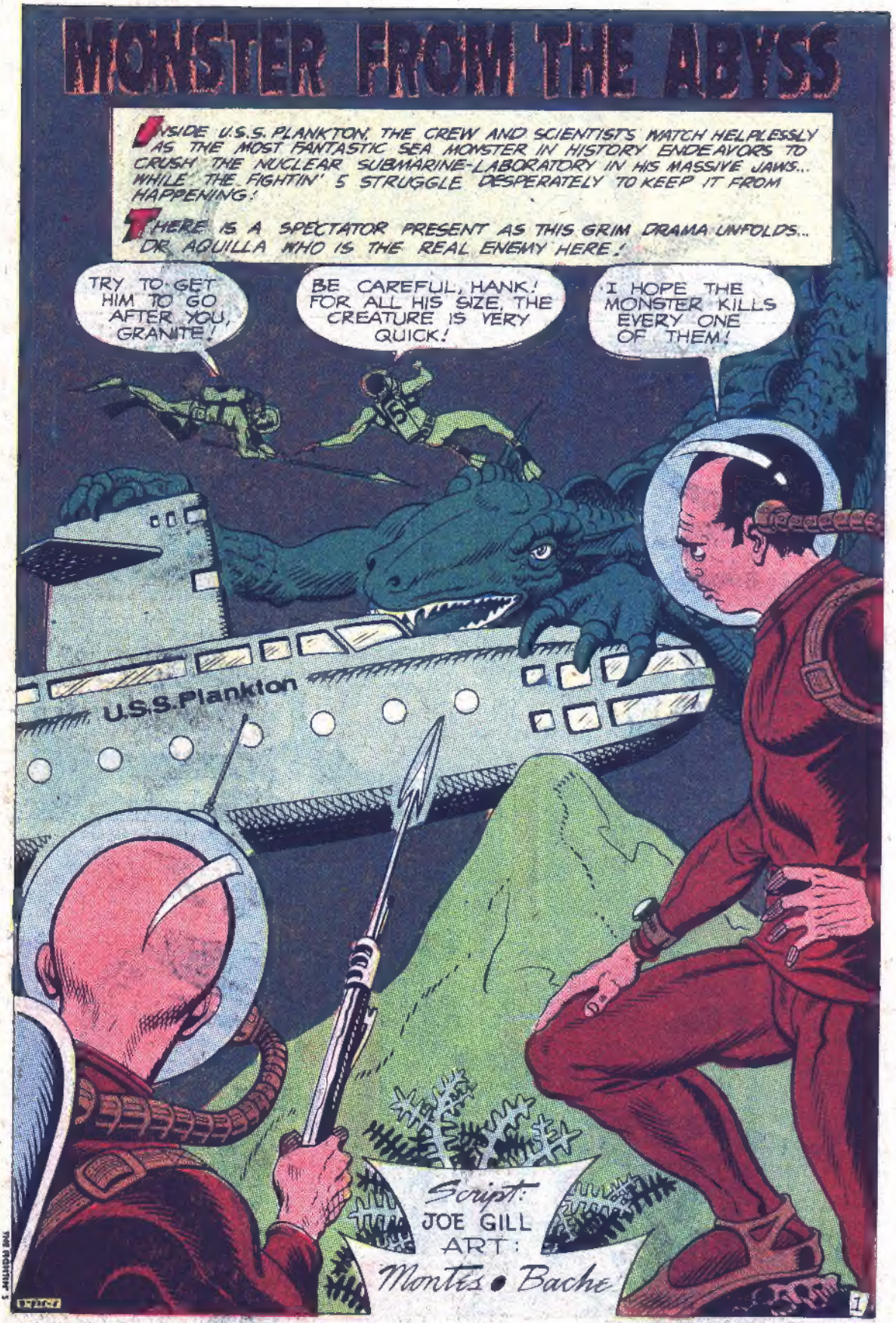
THE FIGHTIN' 5
12¢
JANUARY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DON'T MISS THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY... AS AMERICA'S SUPER-SQUAD MEETS THE..."MONSTER FROM THE ABYSS!"
U.S.S. PLANK


MONSTER FROM THE ABYSS
INSIDE U.S.S. PLANKTON, THE CREW AND SCIENTISTS WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THE MOST FANTASTIC SEA MONSTER IN HISTORY ENDEAVORS TO CRUSH THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINE-LABORATORY IN HIS MASSIVE JAWS.. WHILE THE FIGHTIN' 5 STRUGGLE DESPERATELY TO KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING!
THERE IS A SPECTATOR PRESENT AS THIS GRIM DRAMA UNFOLDS.. DR. AQUILLA WHO IS THE REAL ENEMY HERE!
TRY TO GET HIM TO GO AFTER YOU, GRANITE!
BE CAREFUL, HANK! FOR ALL HIS SIZE, THE CREATURE IS VERY QUICK!
I HOPE THE MONSTER KILLS EVERY ONE OF THEM!
U.S.S. Plankton
Script: JOE GILL
ART: Montes • Bache
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FIRST WE SHOULD MEET THE PRINCIPALS IN OUR EPIC. THIS CREATURE WAS BORN 250,000,000 YEARS AGO... HE AND HIS KIND ROAMED THE PREHISTORIC SWAMPS AND FORESTS... AND THIS ONE ALONE HAS SURVIVED. HE'S A SLEEPY SORT ...HERE HE'S DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY!

FROM THE VERY ANCIENT CREATURE ABOVE, WE MOVE TO THE MOST RECENT ADDITION TO UNDERSEA LIFE! THIS IS U.S.S. PLANKTON, NUCLEAR POWERED UNDER-SEA LABORATORY... ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE!

NOW, LET US INTRODUCE DR. AQUILLA, A DISGRACED GENIUS SHOWN HERE IN THE SUNKEN CITY... WHERE HE SUCCESSFULLY EXTRACTS GOLD AND SILVER FROM SEA WATER AS WELL AS OIL FROM BENEATH THE OCEAN BED!

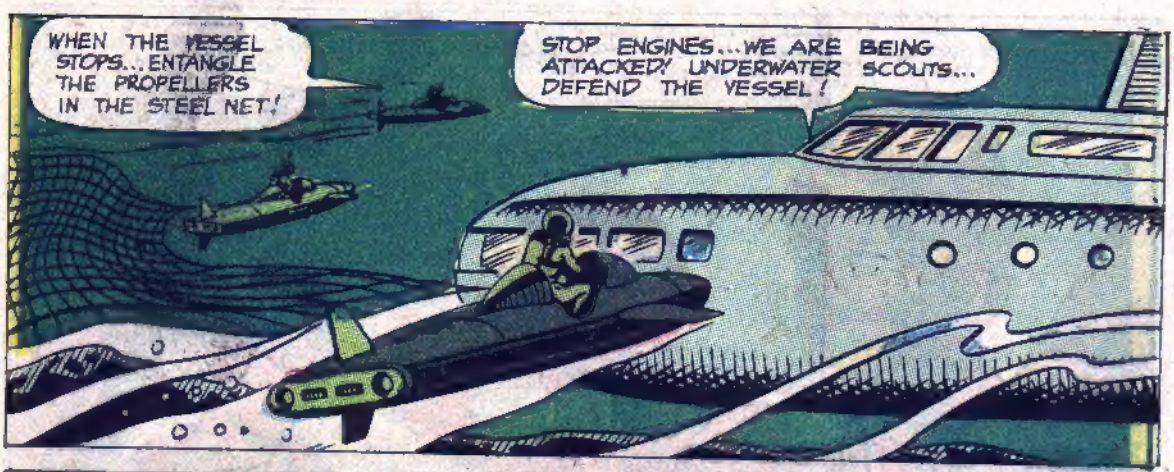
TECHNICIANS, CEASE OPERATIONS AND TAKE REFUGE IN THE DOMES! HOSTILE FORCE IN AREA!

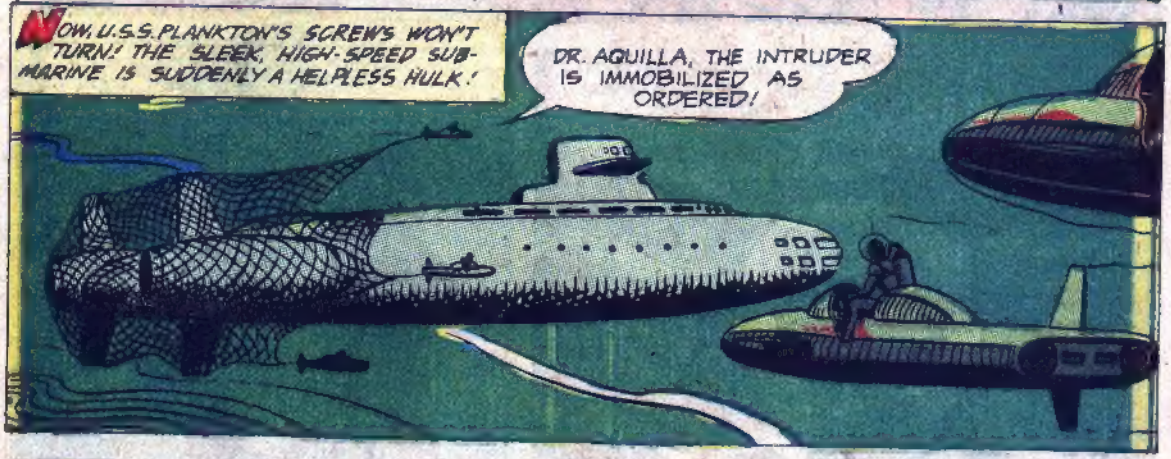
CAPTAIN, THERE ARE METALLIC STRUCTURES OUT THERE... BEARING 48 DEGREES, RANGE 2600 YARDS!

VERY WELL! ALTER COURSE ... COME TO COURSE 17 DEGREES!

U.S.S. PLANKTON MOVES WARILY DEEPER. NOW, THE OBSERVERS BEHIND THE THICK PLATE GLASS CAN SEE THE WEIRD COMMUNITY ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA... BUT THEY DO NOT NOTICE DR. AQUILLA WHO ACHIEVED ALL THIS...

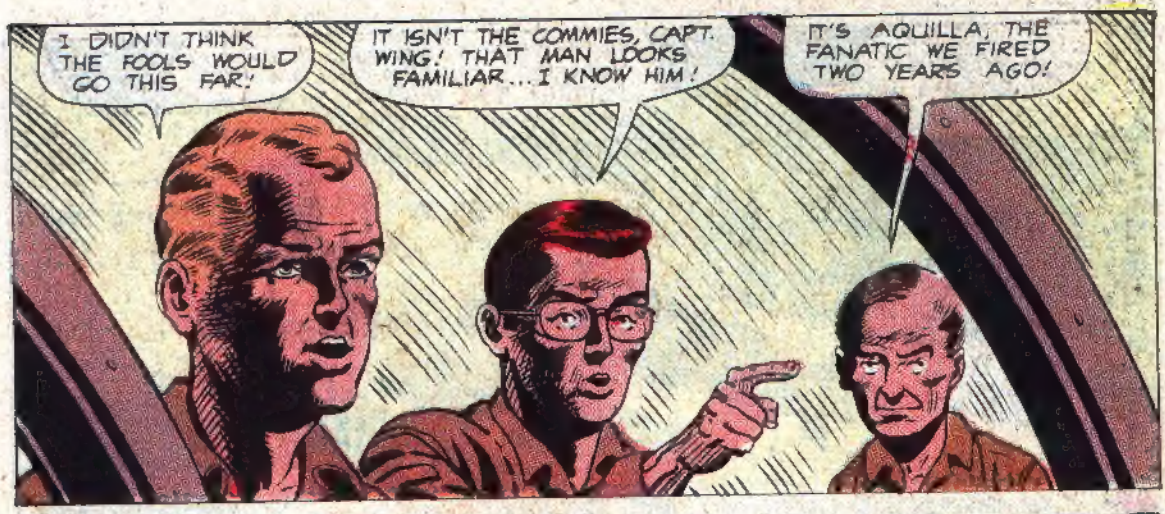
DEFENSE FORCES--ATTACK!


WHEN THE VESSEL STOPS... ENTANGLE THE PROPELLERS IN THE STEEL NET!
STOP ENGINES... WE ARE BEING ATTACKED! UNDERWATER SCOUTS... DEFEND THE VESSEL!


NOW, U.S.S. PLANKTON'S SCREWS WON'T TURN! THE SLEEK, HIGH-SPEED SUBMARINE IS SUDDENLY A HELPLESS HULK!
DR. AQUILLA, THE INTRUDER IS IMMOBILIZED AS ORDERED!

SEND A DISTRESS MESSAGE AT ONCE! GIVE OUR POSITION AND ASK FOR A HUNTER-KILLER SUB TO COME AT ONCE!
AYE AYE, CAPT. WING!

BUT DR. AQUILLA HAS ANTICIPATED THIS... AND U.S.S. PLANKTON SUDDENLY "LOSES HER VOICE"!
RADIO ANTENNAS SMASHED, DR. AQUILLA!


I DIDN'T THINK THE FOOLS WOULD GO THIS FAR!
IT ISN'T THE COMMIES, CAPT. WING! THAT MAN LOOKS FAMILIAR... I KNOW HIM!
IT'S AQUILLA, THE FANATIC WE FIRED TWO YEARS AGO!

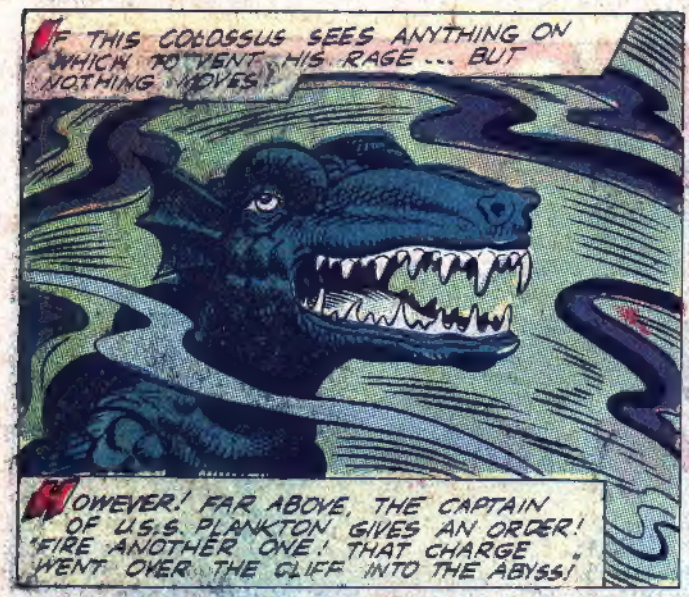
WELCOME TO THE CITY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, GENTLEMEN! YOUR ARRIVAL IS TIMELY... I NEED THE FACILITIES WHICH YOU'VE GOT ABOARD YOUR BEAUTIFUL SEA LABORATORY!

WHEREVER YOU ARE NOW, FIGHTIN' 5 YOU'D BETTER BE ALERT... FOR WHEN THIS CHARGE EXPLODES... YOU FIVE MEN WILL BE BLASTED INTO THIS WEIRD BATTLE ON THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

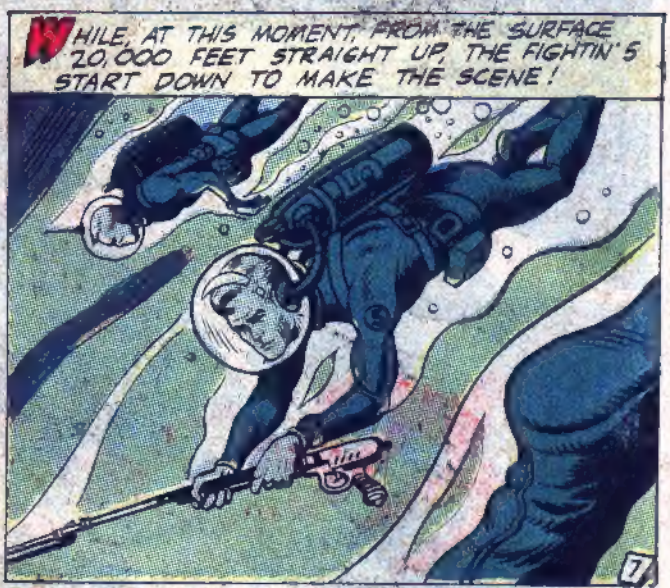
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE FIGHTIN' 5 AREN'T THAT FAR AWAY! A BIG, FAST POWERBOAT IS OFF THE COAST... AND ALL FIVE ARE ABOARD!
HANK, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHY'VE WE GOT THIS DEEP-WATER DIVING EQUIPMENT? DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS CREEPY AQUILLA CHARACTER?
GOLD FROM THE SEA IS APPEARING IN QUANTITIES... AS WELL AS OTHER PRECIOUS METALS! AQUILLA WANTED THE GOVERNMENT TO BACK HIM IN A PROJECT TO DO THIS AND WAS TURNED DOWN!
THE GOVERNMENT RESPECTED THIS MAN'S SCIENTIFIC ABILITY AND HIS THEORY... BUT HE WAS A POOR SECURITY RISK AND A BAD ACTOR GENERALLY! HE ALMOST KILLED A COLLEAGUE WHOM HE ACCUSED OF STEALING AN INVENTION!
I'VE LEARNED THAT AQUILLA HAD BARGES CONTAINING EQUIPMENT IN THIS AREA! THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE!
WHAT EFFECT CAN THIS DEVICE HAVE ON ANYONE! IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE HARMLESSLY FAR AWAY FROM ALL LIVING THINGS! ISN'T IT!
OR IS IT?

WITH THE WHOLE OCEAN TO BOUNCE AROUND IN, WHY MUST IT DROP HERE?
HYAH?
THUMP
WARRUMFF
SURELY, THIS LEFTOVER FROM THE DINOSAUR ERA IS DEAD! IT DOESN'T MOVE... WHAT COULD SURVIVE SUCH A BLAST?
THIS THING COULD THAT'S WHAT COULD! IT'S A REPTILE — TREMENDOUS IN SIZE, MORE HUGE THAN ANY WHALE, DINOSAUR OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT EVER TERRIFIED THE WORLD!
ROOOR


IF THIS COLOSSUS SEES ANYTHING ON WHICH TO VENT HIS RAGE ... BUT NOTHING MOVES!
HOWEVER! FAR ABOVE, THE CAPTAIN OF U.S.S. PLANKTON GIVES AN ORDER! "FIRE ANOTHER ONE! THAT CHARGE WENT OVER THE CLIFF INTO THE ABYSS!"

WUMPF

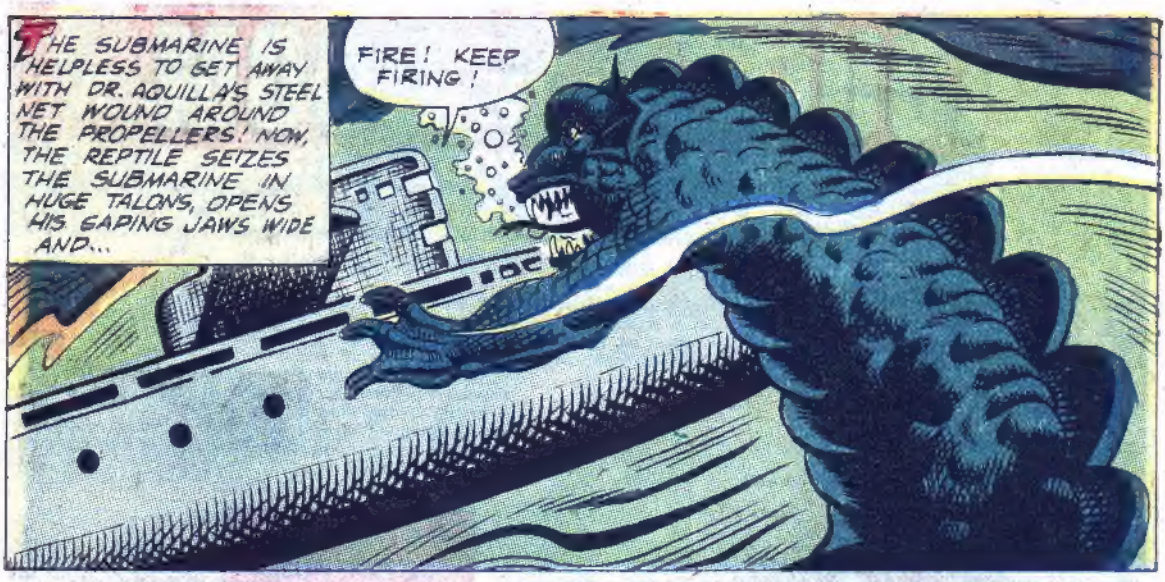
THAT DID IT! NOW, THIS STRANGE REPTILE IS SEEKING REVENGE!

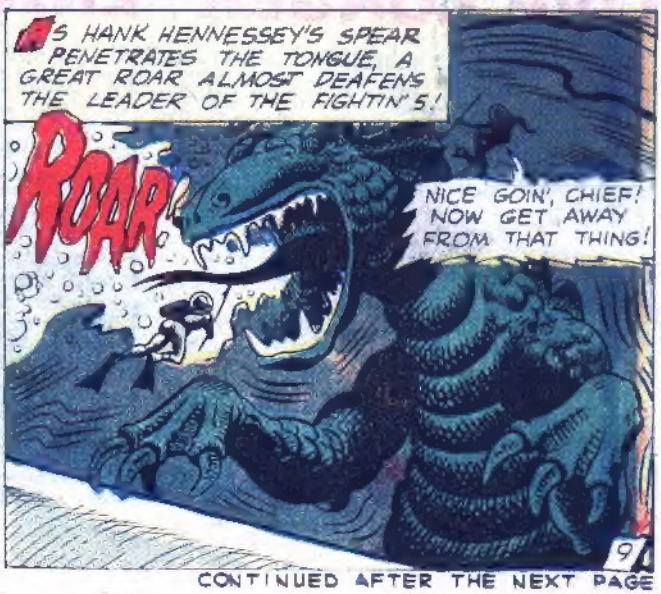

WHILE, AT THIS MOMENT, FROM THE SURFACE 20,000 FEET STRAIGHT UP, THE FIGHTIN' 5 START DOWN TO MAKE THE SCENE!

AQUILLA'S DOOM

THE ROAR OF THE GIANT IS HEARD INSIDE U.S.S. PLANKTON'S HULL... AND AS THE ENRAGED REPTILE RUSHES TO DEAL WITH HIS TORMENTORS, THE HUGE CLAWS CRUSH A THICK STEEL DOME... CRUMPLE GREAT GIRDERS... AND THE GLITTERING NEW SEA LAB WILL PERISH JUST AS EASILY!

RROOWWR!
CAPTAIN WING! LOOK... IT'S COMING FOR US!
DESCENDING AT THIS MOMENT, THE FIGHTIN' 5 HEAR THE ROARS OF THE MONSTER...
WHATEVER THAT IS -- IT'S CLOSE BY...
I THINK THERE'S A LIGHT DOWN THERE!
ROARR!


THE SUBMARINE IS HELPLESS TO GET AWAY WITH DR. AQUILLA'S STEEL NET WOUND AROUND THE PROPELLERS! NOW, THE REPTILE SEIZES THE SUBMARINE IN HUGE TALONS, OPENS HIS GAPING JAWS WIDE AND...
FIRE! KEEP FIRING!

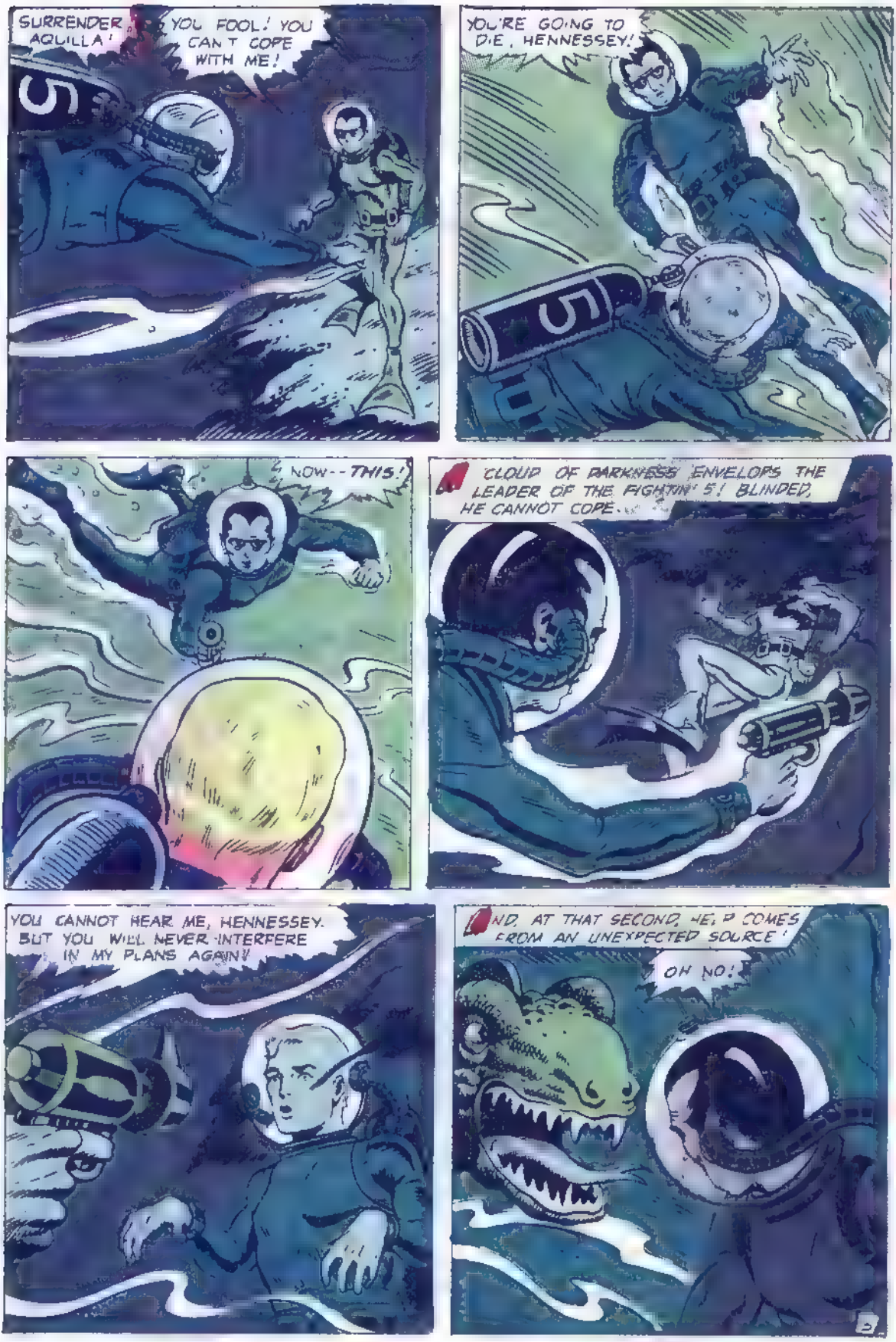

AS HANK HENNESSEY'S SPEAR PENETRATES THE TONGUE, A GREAT ROAR ALMOST DEAFENS THE LEADER OF THE FIGHTIN' 5!
ROAR!
NICE GOIN', CHIEF! NOW GET AWAY FROM THAT THING!

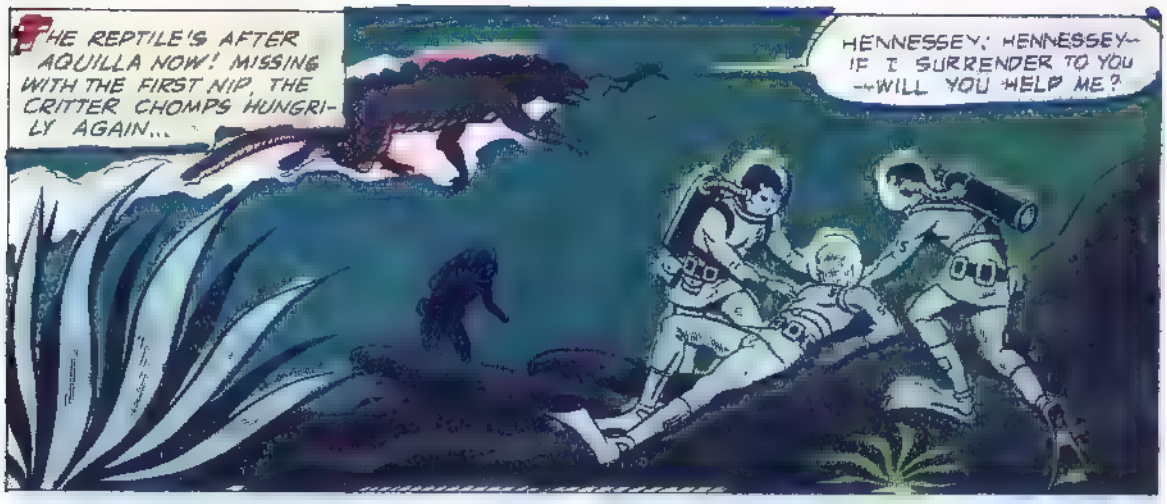
CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

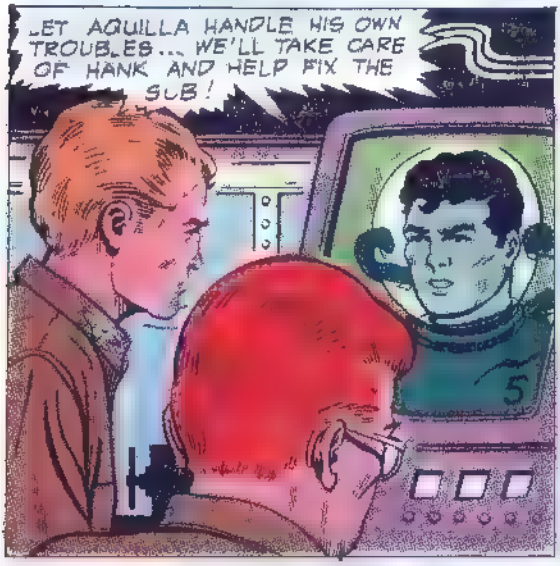
TENNESSEY LEAPS CLEAR AS THE JAWS CRASH CLOSED
THIS IS THE GROUP KNOWN AS THE FIGHTIN' 5! STAND CLEAR! LET THE MONSTER DEAL WITH THEM
THEN WE WILL ELIMINATE ALL SURVIVORS!!
THE FIGHTIN 5 KNOW THE CREW OF U S S PLANKTON ARE DOOMED IF THE MONSTER ISN'T DISTRACTED! NOW THEY DELIBERATELY GOAD IT INTO A FROTHING RAGE.
HANK. WE'RE GETTING THIS THING MAD ON PURPOSE THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
WE RUN. AWAY FROM THE SUB GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO REPAIR THEIR DAMAGED PROPELLERS.

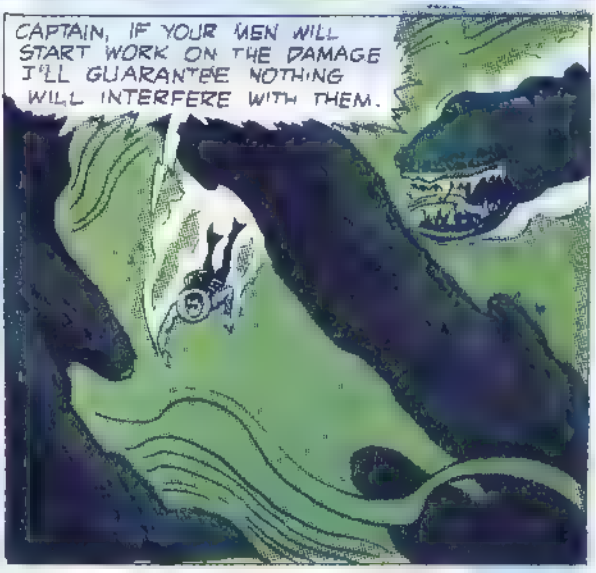
THE CREATURE LUNGES AT ONE AND MISSES, THEN ANOTHER... AND EACH MEMBER OF THE FIGHTIN' 5 OFFERS HIMSELF TO TEMPT THE MONSTER AWAY FROM THE CRIPPLED SUB!
THE ONE-SIDED BATTLE IS WITNESSED BY CAPT. WING AND THE SCIENTISTS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BRAVER GROUP OF MEN IN MY LIFE! NOW, REPAIR PARTY, GET OUT THERE AND GET THAT NET OFF THE SCREWS!
ATTACK!
ZZZZ!!!?
THE FIGHTIN' 5 HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE GREAT REPTILE ...AND AQUILLA'S MEN ATTACK THE U.S. NAVY DIVERS!
I AM ON YOUR FREQUENCY, CAPTAIN! I OFFER YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SURRENDER YOUR VESSEL. YOUR LIVES WILL BE SPARED.
YOU'RE MAD DR AQUILLA! CALL OFF YOUR MEN OR YOU WILL BE HANGED FOR PIRACY.

AS THE FIGHTIN'S BAIT THE SEA GIANT, HANK HENNESSEY HAS BEEN CHANGING THE ULTRA-LOW-WAVE RADIO... AND HE HEARS AQUILLA'S ULTIMATUM AND CAPTAIN WING'S REPLY!
DR. AQUILLA IS TRYING TO CAPTURE THE SEA LAB!
HEY, YOU GUYS... WE'RE GOING BACK TO AQUILLA'S PROJECT!
WHAT ABOUT JUNIOR?
HE'S GOING TO HELP US THWART AQUILLA
DON'T LET JUNIOR GET THAT CLOSE, CHIEF!
I WANT TO LEAD OUR LITTLE FRIEND THROUGH AQUILLA'S INSTALLATION...GIVE THAT MANIAC SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT!
ONCE AGAIN, AQUILLA'S ACHIEVEMENTS ARE BEING REDUCED TO WRECKAGE ... AND THE SCIENTIST FORGETS ABOUT CAPTURING U.S.S. PLANKTON!
CEASE ATTACKING THE SUB! KILL THE MONSTER! IT'S DESTROYING OUR CITY!

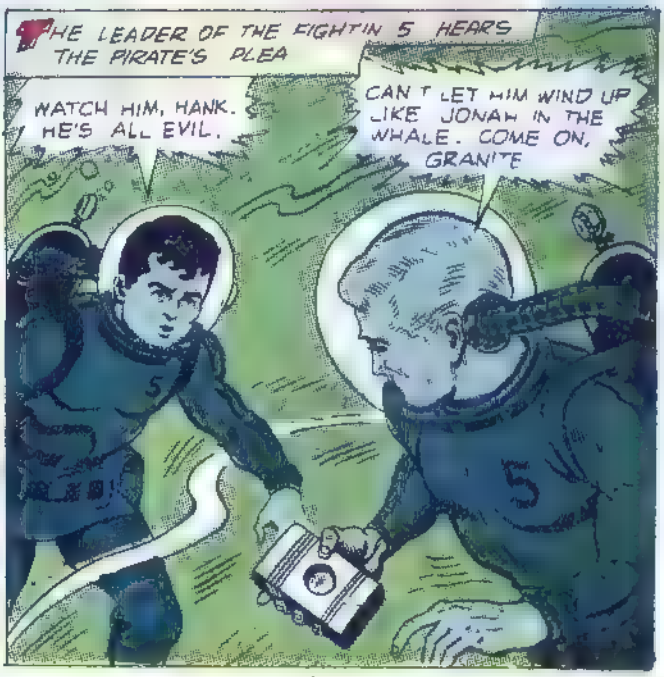

SURRENDER AQUILLA!
YOU FOOL! YOU CAN'T COPE WITH ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, HENNESSEY!
NOW--THIS!
A CLOUD OF DARKNESS ENVELOPS THE LEADER OF THE FIGHTIN' 5! BLINDED, HE CANNOT COPE...
YOU CANNOT HEAR ME, HENNESSEY. BUT YOU WILL NEVER INTERFERE IN MY PLANS AGAIN!
AND, AT THAT SECOND, HELP COMES FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE!
OH NO!


THE REPTILE'S AFTER AQUILLA NOW! MISSING WITH THE FIRST NIP, THE CRITTER CHOMPS HUNGRILY AGAIN...
HENNESSEY, HENNESSEY— IF I SURRENDER TO YOU —WILL YOU HELP ME?


LET AQUILLA HANDLE HIS OWN TROUBLES... WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HANK AND HELP FIX THE SUB!


CAPTAIN, IF YOUR MEN WILL START WORK ON THE DAMAGE I'LL GUARANTEE NOTHING WILL INTERFERE WITH THEM.

GOT TO GET AWAY ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN BEING CAUGHT BY THAT CREATURE
HE'S SURE TO GET ME


THE LEADER OF THE FIGHTIN 5 HEARS THE PIRATE'S PLEA
WATCH HIM, HANK. HE'S ALL EVIL.
CAN'T LET HIM WIND UP LIKE JONAH IN THE WHALE. COME ON, GRANITE

THAT'S POWERFUL STUFF, HANK... BUT WILL THAT ITTY-BITTY FIRECRACKER STOP THE MONSTER?
EXPLODED EXTERNALLY, I DOUBT IT.
ROWRR
BUT I'M GOING TO FEED THIS TO OUR LITTLE PLAYMATE!
SWALLOW THE PILL LIKE A GOOD LITTLE FELLOW!
GULP!
OKAY, GRANITE ... TAKE AQUILLA IN TOW.. I DON'T THINK THIS OVERSIZED ALLIGATOR WILL BOTHER US AGAIN!
WUMPF
LEAVING THE BIGGEST CASE OF HICCUPS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, THE FIGHTIN'S LEAVE THE SCENE... ONCE MORE VICTORS OVER EVIL.. READY TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THEIR COUNTRY WHENEVER NECESSARY!
Hiccup
Hiccup
Hiccup
15
THE END

THE PEACEMAKER

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

THE BATTERED BODY OF 'THE PEACEMAKER' HURTLES TOWARD THE GRANITE SLOPES OF THE ALPS BELOW! IS THE CAREER OF THIS DEDICATED MAN TO END SO SOON?
FALLING I REMEMBER .BORK'S JET FIRED A ROCKET. MY BODY ARMOR ABSORBED SOME OF THE SHOCK OF THE EXPLOSION BUT
I'M GOING TO HIT!
MUST RE-ACTIVATE THE JETS THE BLAST CAUSED A FLAME-OUT!
IN THE LAST SPLIT SECOND OF LIFE LEFT TO HIM, 'THE PEACE MAKER' UTILIZES FULL JET POWER AND HURTLES CLEAR OF THE UNYIELDING ALPINE ROCKS
!
ZOOM
PHEW! NOW TO RETURN TO MY CASTLE! BORK IS JETTING TO SOUTH AMERICA! I'VE GOT TO GET THERE AHEAD OF HIM! I'LL USE MY NEW U-X JET FIGHTER!!

A SHORT TIME LATER, 'THE PEACEMAKER' TAKES OFF FROM HIS RETREAT IN THE SWISS ALPS – PILOTING THE U-X, A SECRET INVENTION OF CHRISTOPHER SMITH, A MAN DEDICATED TO PEACE! IT IS THE MOST POTENT WARPLANE EVER FLOWN, AND NOW 'THE PEACEMAKER' FLIES FROM EUROPE WEST ACROSS THE SOUTH ATLANTIC...!

I COULD HAVE USED MY JET PACK, BUT THE U-X IS MUCH FASTER!

C.I.A HAS A RESERVE FIELD ON A PLATEAU IN THE ANDES! UNATTENDED – IT SUITS MY PLANS PERFECTLY!

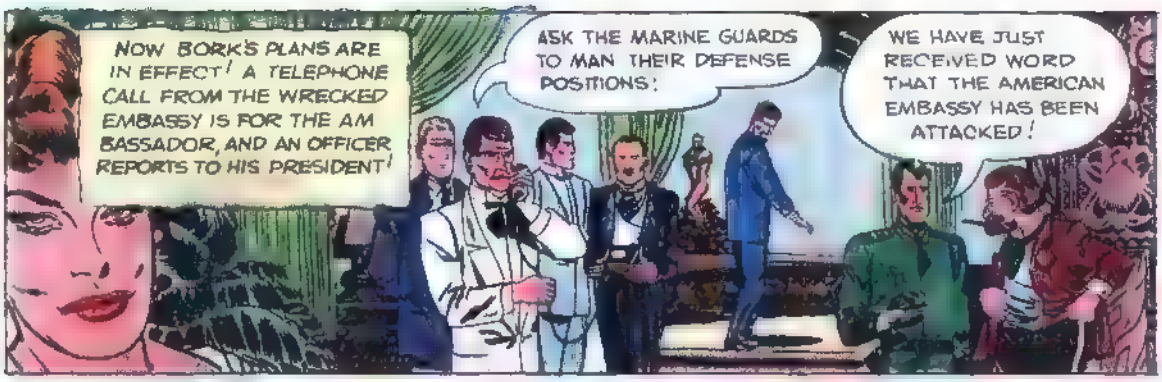
I PASSED THROUGH SEVERAL RADAR SCANNING FIELDS...BUT, I DOUBT IF THEY'LL IDENTIFY ME!

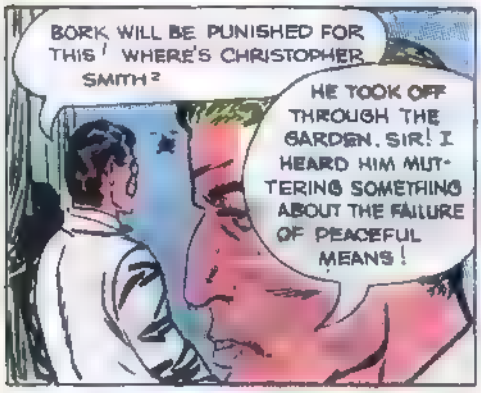
THE PEACEMAKER IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT! GENERAL LECOYO RECEIVES AN AIR INTELLIGENCE REPORT OF A U.F.O. (UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT) AND DISMISSES IT AS UNIMPORTANT!

SEÑOR PRESIDENTE, WE HAVE A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR IN OUR COUNTRY! SI, THE MAN WHO SENT YOU THE LIMOUSINES AND THE TEN CARAT DIAMOND!

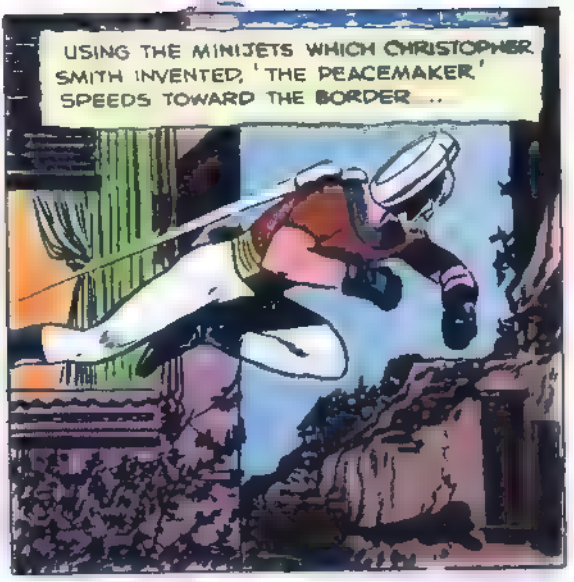
AND NOW, GENERAL, INFORM YOUR PRESIDENTE THAT HE IS GIVING A DINNER FOR ALL THE AMBASSADORS IN THIS CAPITAL TONITE! ALL OF THEM WILL BE TOLD THEY MUST ATTEND...
BUT, SEÑOR BORK, THEY... VERY WELL, SEÑOR! THE PRESIDENTE WILL DO AS YOU SUGGEST! I AM SURE OF IT!
ONE HOUR LATER, IN HIS ROOM, EMIL BORK NUDGES THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT CLOSER TO TOTAL WAR
YES, YOU WILL DYNAMITE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND LEAVE CLUES IMPLICATING THE NATION TO THE SOUTH! OUR AGENTS WILL SABOTAGE KEY INSTALLATIONS IN KEY CITIES IN THE COUNTRY TO THE SOUTH- IMPLICATING THIS COUNTRY.
... AND THEN EMIL BORK MAKES HIS ENTRANCE WITH WORLD FAMOUS DIPLOMATS AWAITING HIS PLEASURE
I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM WITH AN OLD CIGAR BUTT, AMBASSADOR! WHO IS HE?
EMIL BORK MUNITIONS DEALER! WAR-MAKER - SPY!
ENJOY YOURSELVES, GENTLEMEN! SOON YOU WILL BE PERSONA NON GRATA HERE!
WHAT'S THAT CRACK SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
MR BORK IS WORKING ON A LITTLE WAR, MOST LIKELY! AND, HE'LL DIRECT THE BLAME TO AN INNOCENT NATION - AS USUAL
!
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME, CHRISTOPHER SMITH?
I WORK FOR PEACE, MR BORK! WHERE YOU GO - IS WHERE I'M NEEDED MOST!
4

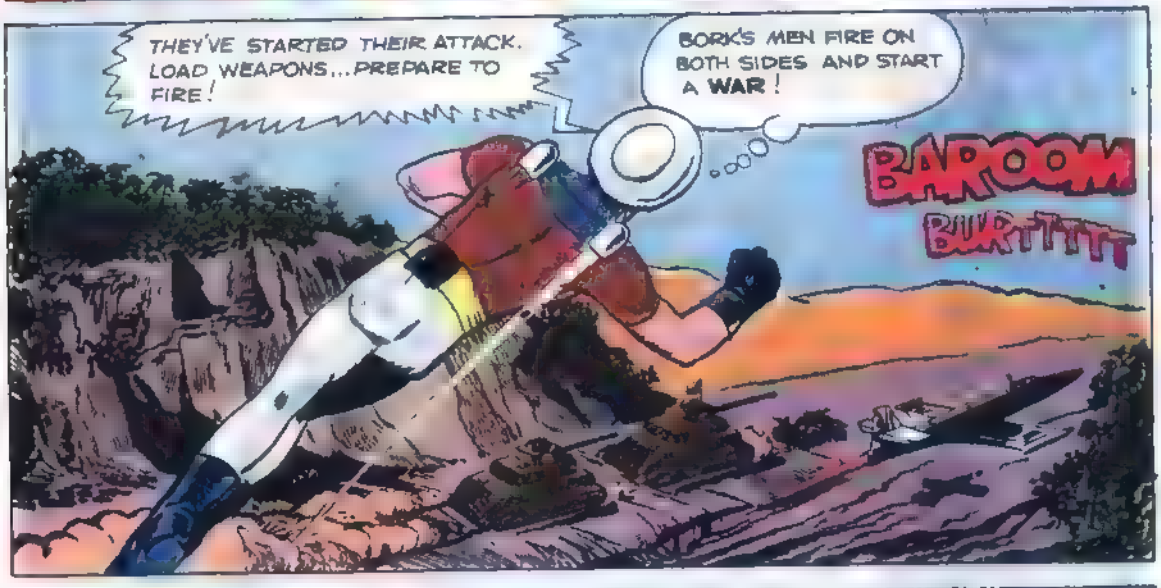
THERE ARE TENSIONS HERE! BRIEF ME QUICKLY!
THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL BORDER DISPUTES! EMIL BORK'S AGENTS HAVE COMMITTED ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND BORK-CONTROLLED PAPERS HAVE BLAMED THESE NEIGHBORING NATIONS!
TROOP MOVEMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE HEAVY!! WASHINGTON HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO BE PREPARED TO GET OUR PEOPLE OUT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!
AT THIS MOMENT, BORK CLOSES A DEAL.
..IN RETURN FOR FIFTY MODERN BOMBERS, I WILL GIVE YOU TITLE TO THE TIN AND URANIUM MINES!
EXCELLENT! YOU WILL NEED OTHER WEAPONS ...I WILL NOTIFY YOU OF MY PRICE IN THE MORNING!
AFTER THE WAR HAS BEGUN!
AND AS THEY TALK, THE VIOLENCE BEGINS...WITH AN EAR-SPLITTING BLAST IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY!
BA-ROOM
HEAD FOR THE BORDER ...WE MUST DYNAMITE THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE!!
RATATTT
AMERICAN EMBASSY
EMBAJADA DE ESTADOS UNIDOS
PROHIBIDO PASAR SIN PERMISO...
RATATTT
CLANG


NOW BORK'S PLANS ARE IN EFFECT! A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE WRECKED EMBASSY IS FOR THE AMBASSADOR, AND AN OFFICER REPORTS TO HIS PRESIDENT!
ASK THE MARINE GUARDS TO MAN THEIR DEFENSE POSITIONS!
WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN ATTACKED!


BORK WILL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS! WHERE'S CHRISTOPHER SMITH?
HE TOOK OFF THROUGH THE GARDEN, SIR! I HEARD HIM MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT THE FAILURE OF PEACEFUL MEANS!

CHRISTOPHER SMITH FACES THE BITTER TRUTH. .PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH NORMAL, LEGAL CHANNELS. SO THE PEACE ENVOY SNAPS OPEN THE DIPLOMAT'S BRIEFCASE HE IS NEVER WITHOUT!





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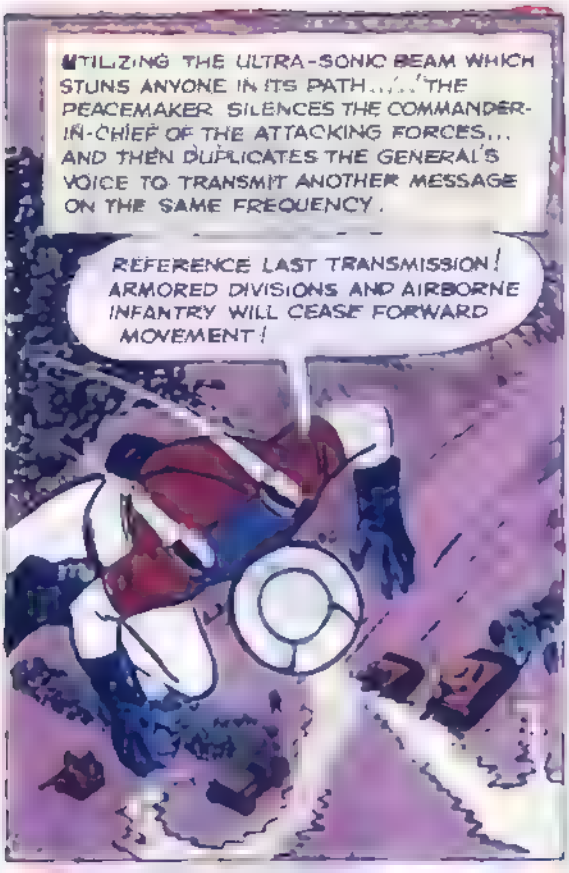
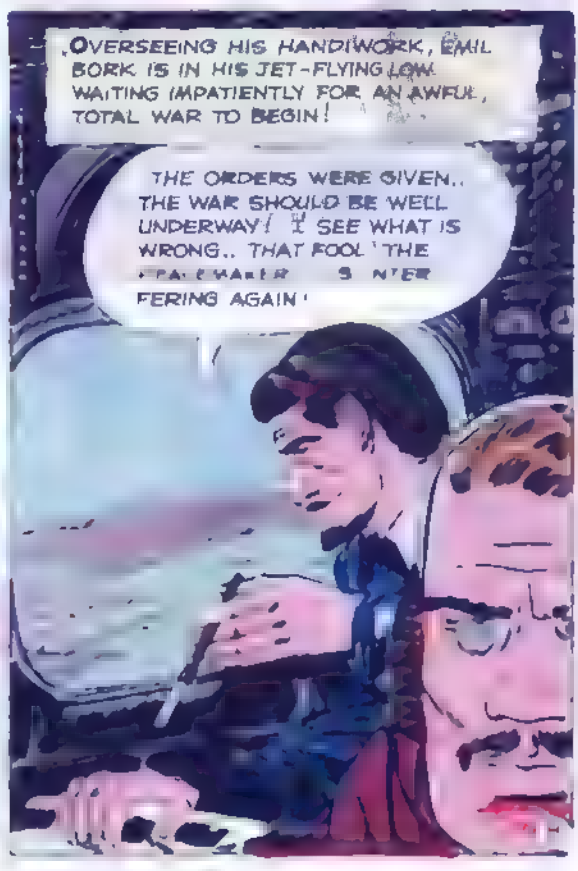
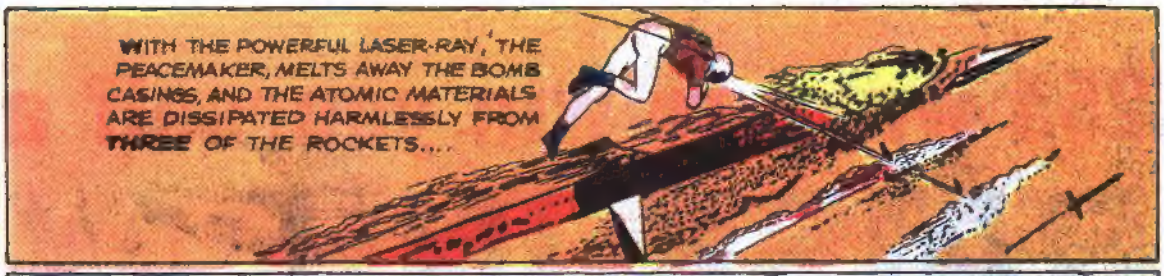

UTILIZING THE ULTRA-SONIC BEAM WHICH STUNS ANYONE IN ITS PATH..... THE PEACEMAKER SILENCES THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ATTACKING FORCES... AND THEN DUPLICATES THE GENERAL'S VOICE TO TRANSMIT ANOTHER MESSAGE ON THE SAME FREQUENCY.
REFERENCE LAST TRANSMISSION! ARMORED DIVISIONS AND AIRBORNE INFANTRY WILL CEASE FORWARD MOVEMENT!

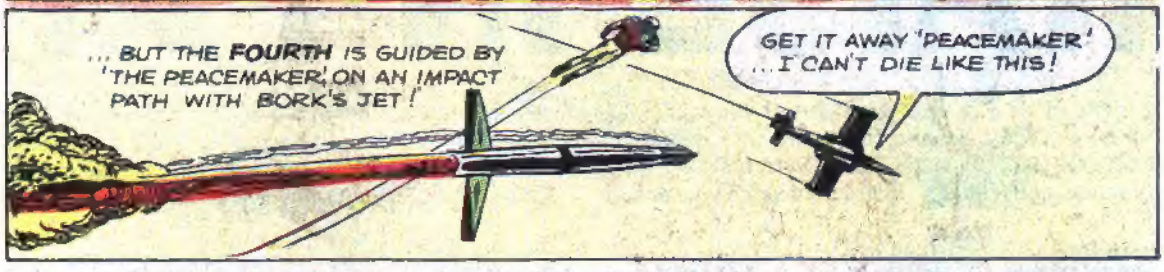
THE DEFENDING FORCES WILL OPEN FIRE.. I'VE GOT TO NEUTRALIZE THEM TOO! I'VE GOT A SMALL CONTAINER OF SUPER-CONCENTRATE

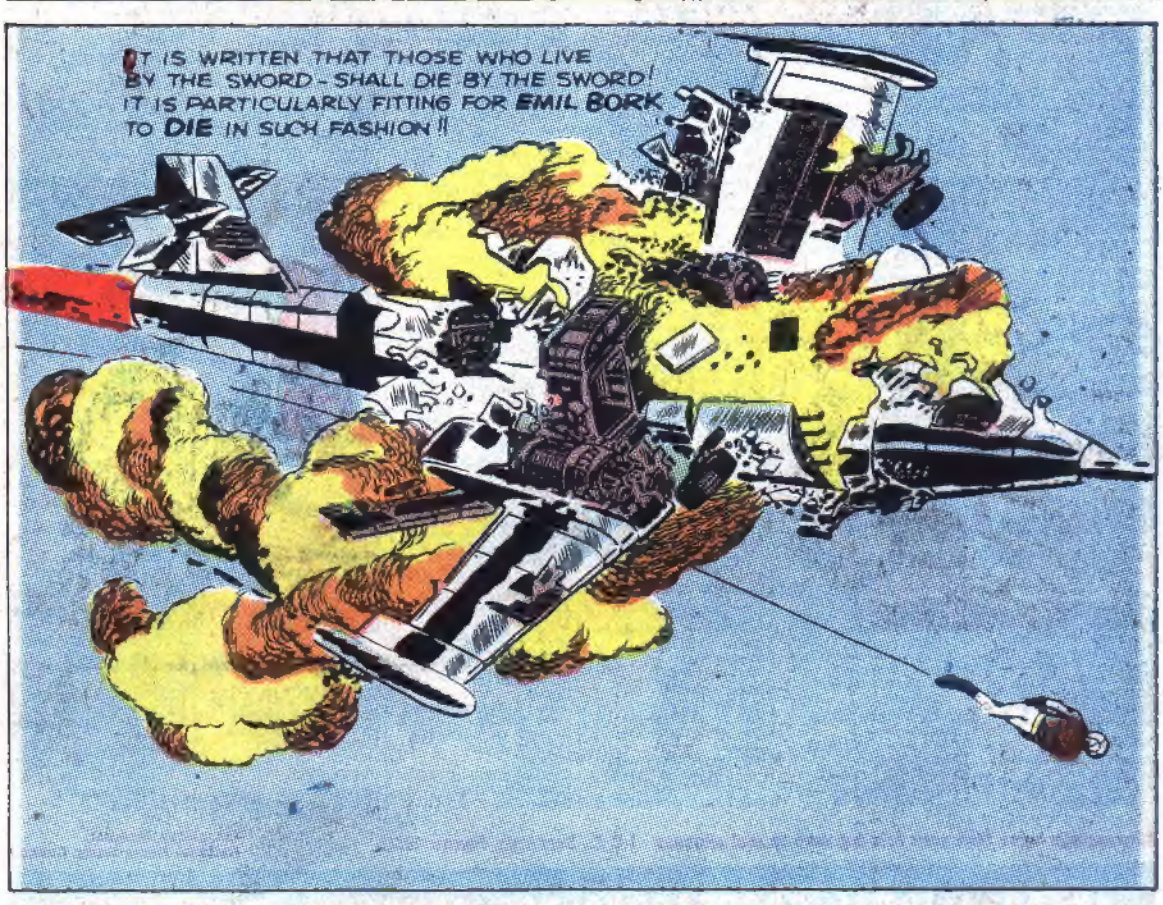
A TINY WHIFF OF NERVE-GAS WILL PARALYZE THE ENTIRE ARMY!


OVERSEEING HIS HANDIWORK, EMIL BORK IS IN HIS JET-FLYING LOW WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR AN AWFUL, TOTAL WAR TO BEGIN!
THE ORDERS WERE GIVEN.. THE WAR SHOULD BE WELL UNDERWAY! I SEE WHAT IS WRONG.. THAT FOOL THE PEACEMAKER IS INTERFERING AGAIN!

I DID NOT PLAN TO USE THE COBALT BOMBS...BUT, 'THE PEACEMAKER' WILL TRIUMPH IF I DON'T!
HAND ME THE MIKE!!
OPERATIVE 7... THIS IS WARMAN! FLY THE BIRDS! I REPEAT-THIS IS WARMAN...FLY THE BIRDS!
NORTH OF THE CAPITOL, AT A SITE WHERE PRE-AIMED SHORT-RANGE ATOMIC MISSILES HAVE BEEN WAITING, BORK'S MAN, OPERATIVE 7, PUSHES THE BUTTONS....
THAT'S ONE! THIS WILL WIPE OUT A CITY!
THIS WILL WIPE OUT ANOTHER....
O.P. 7
THIS IS WARMAN! I AM MOVING EASTWARD TO AVOID BLAST EFFECT!
NOTHING CAN STOP BORK'S VICIOUS PLANS NOW! TOTAL WAR WILL DESTROY THE CONTINENT AND BUT WAIT! HERE'S 'THE PEACEMAKER'! WILL HE BE IN TIME ??


WITH THE POWERFUL LASER-RAY, 'THE PEACEMAKER' MELTS AWAY THE BOMB CASINGS, AND THE ATOMIC MATERIALS ARE DISSIPATED HARMLESSLY FROM THREE OF THE ROCKETS....




IT IS WRITTEN THAT THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD - SHALL DIE BY THE SWORD! IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING FOR EMIL BORK TO DIE IN SUCH FASHION!!

AND SO, HIS FIRST FANTASTIC ADVENTURE AT AN END, 'THE PEACEMAKER' VANISHES BACK INTO PEACE ENVOY CHRISTOPHER SMITH'S BRIEFCASE.. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME THAT WORLD PEACE IS THREATENED! DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF *FIGHTIN' 5* FOR THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF *'THE PEACEMAKER'*

EXPENDABLE EXCEPT

Our orders had been brief and right to the point: "Regardless of cost, you are to get Professor Encico Mantini and his daughter, Elena, out of the country. You are expendable. They are not." The name is Jim Henley of the O.S.S. and the men with me were Robert Morani, Dick Toscani, and Frank Cartucci. My mother was Italian and we all spoke the language perfectly. Just now we were all holed up in a thick stone building outside of the village and just twelve miles from the coast. There a submarine was waiting for us. To take us to safety-and yet we were all sort of trapped inside this ancient farm house.

Outside waiting for us, was Major Hans Keppler and one heavy tank. Its powerful gun was pointed at us and it could blow the building with all of us just sky high. The Nazis were retreating northward under the terrific pondering of the Allied Drive. And what were his orders? Exactly the same as ours! He and his men were expendable. At any cost whatsoever, they had to get Professor Enrico Mantini and his daughter, Elena, into their hands and take them back to Berlin.

It was beginning to get on my nerves. The Professor and the owner of the farm building, Marco, were again down in their cellar. What were they doing? Every now and then, the Professor would come up and speaking softly to his daughter and then return underground.

"This is no time for games. "I sort of said harshly to Elena "The world is crumbling around us and your father seems to be unaware of what is happening."

"I resent that very much," she snapped back at me. "My father is a genius. He will handle this situation in his own manner. You just keep cool and don't lose your head. Your orders were also to do whatever my father wanted Just remember that."

She had no sooner finished speaking, then her father came up from the cellar with Marco

"I want twenty thousand dollars in American money," he told me "I am buying this farm. We take Marco with us to America With that money he will buy a farm in the country"

It almost sounded like the words of a mad man. I gave him the money which he gave to the farmer. Then he continued his orders.

"Wave a flag of truce. I want to speak to Major Hans Keppler."

This I did and ten minutes later the Major had entered the farm house. The Professor pointed to a chair and then spoke as though to an old friend.

"Before the war you were a gentleman and a scholar. At least you didn't treat my people badly like some others did. This is in your favor. If you wish to surrender, you and your men, you can do so."

"Are you mad, Professor Mantini?" demanded an angered Nazi Officer. "I can wipe all of you out."

"And if you all come with me down into the cellar, I will show you what I have set-up. At least I wish to spare your life, Major Keppler. Perhaps for old times sake."

So we went down to the cellar There were candles stuck into the soft earth and the Professor explained the situation.

"I have figured your tank is just on the edge of where the cellar ends. Notice all the open wine barrels. Wine contains alcohol. Even a baby knows that. And alcohol will burn. I have set a fuse with some dynamite. It will blow up the edge of the cellar. The tank will tumble down into the flaming liquid. What a terrible death for your men. I'll make a deal with you. Tell them to surrender and they live. In return, we take you with us as a prisoner to America. It will be better that way. Otherwise they all die. And you aren't a fool, or are you?"

I watched those beads of perspiration gather on the forehead of the Nazi Officer. He choked on the words.

'You win."

Which explains now one Marco came to own a big farm in Kansas; how we got a prisoner of war over with us in the submarine; but it doesn't tell us if the Professor was bluffing-or really could do it

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ON SALE NOW!